

First record of the peacock fly *Callopistromyia annulipes* (Diptera: Ulidiidae) in Romania

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Abstract

The peacock fly *Callopistromyia annulipes* (Macquart, 1855) is recorded for the first time in Romania, from several locations. Its current distribution in Europe and some data regarding the ecology of the species are presented.

Keywords

Allochthonous species, Brachycera, distribution, Europe, picture-winged flies.

The family Ulidiidae (Diptera: Tephritoidea), known as picture-winged flies, comprises small sized species, usually with different patterns of spots or stripes on their wings and bodies. Approximately 110 species are known in Europe (Kameneva 2008).

The peacock fly *Callopistromyia annulipes* (Macquart, 1855) (Fig. 1) is a Nearctic species, originally described in the genus *Platystoma* Meigen, 1803. The genus *Callopistromyia* Handl, 1907 is represented by two species, *C. annulipes* and *C. strigula* (Loew, 1873) both described from the Nearctic Region and widespread in the United States and southern Canada (Kameneva and Korneyev 2006). The vernacular English name refers to its habits of displaying the spotted wings raised vertically and pointed forward (Fig. 2), which resembles to a peacock tail.



Figure 1. Female of *Callopistromyia annulipes*, lateral view.

Its first occurrence in the Palearctic Region came from Southern Switzerland in 2007, when one female was found in a vineyard (Merz 2007). It was recorded in the same year from Germany (Merzand Van Gysegem 2007) and in 2011 from Netherlands (Smith and Hamers 2011). After this, it is recorded from Italy (flies photographed and posted on Diptera.info website by Niolu P. in 2009 and by Galliani C. in 2010), France (from a picture posted on Diptera.info website, in 2011), Slovenia (from an observation uploaded by Weites M. on Observation.org database, in 2011), Austria and Slovakia (female specimens collected in 2014 with beer traps) (Korneyev et al. 2014). In 2016, the species was found in Hungary (Kameneva and Pekarsky 2016) and in 2017 in Belgium (Ravoet and Farinelle 2017) and Czech Republic (Dvořák 2017). The last published records of the species in a new country in Europe are from Poland (Kłasa and Jałoszyński 2018) and Ukraine (Dvořák et al. 2019).

Given the known European distribution of *Callopistromyia annulipes*, the species was expected to be found also in Romania (Fig. 3). We examined 22 specimens, as follows: 1 specimen (not collected), Timiș county, Surducu Mic (near), 11.08.2018, 45.7581°N/22.1089°E, observed by Ionela Slejiuc; 1 ♀, Romania, Arad county, Conop (near), 11.10.2018, 46.0972°N/21.8816°E, leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 ♀, Romania, Arad county, Milova (near), 14.10.2018, 46.0877°N/21.8068°E, Leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 ♀ (not collected), Romania, Galați county, Hanu Conachi

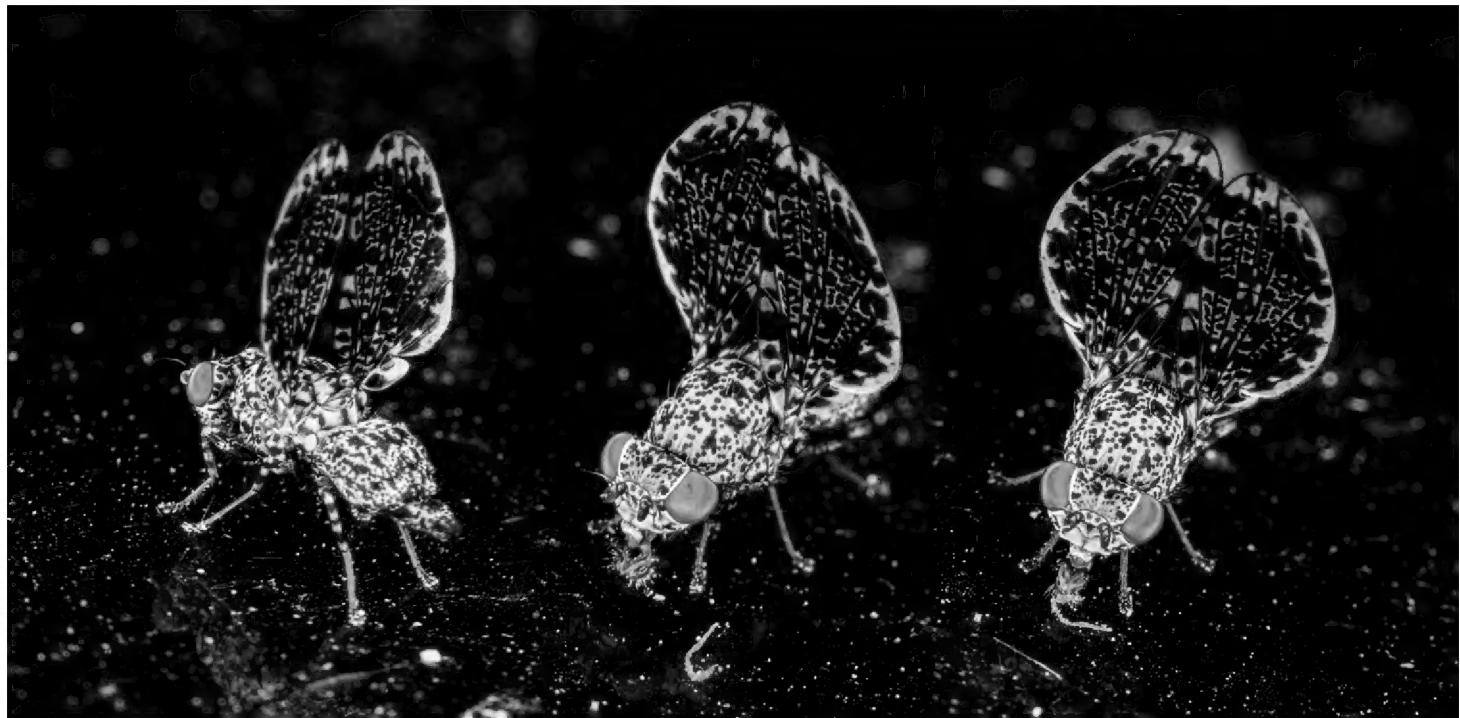


Figure 2. Female of *Callopistromyia annulipes*, in situ, showing its peculiar wings displaying.

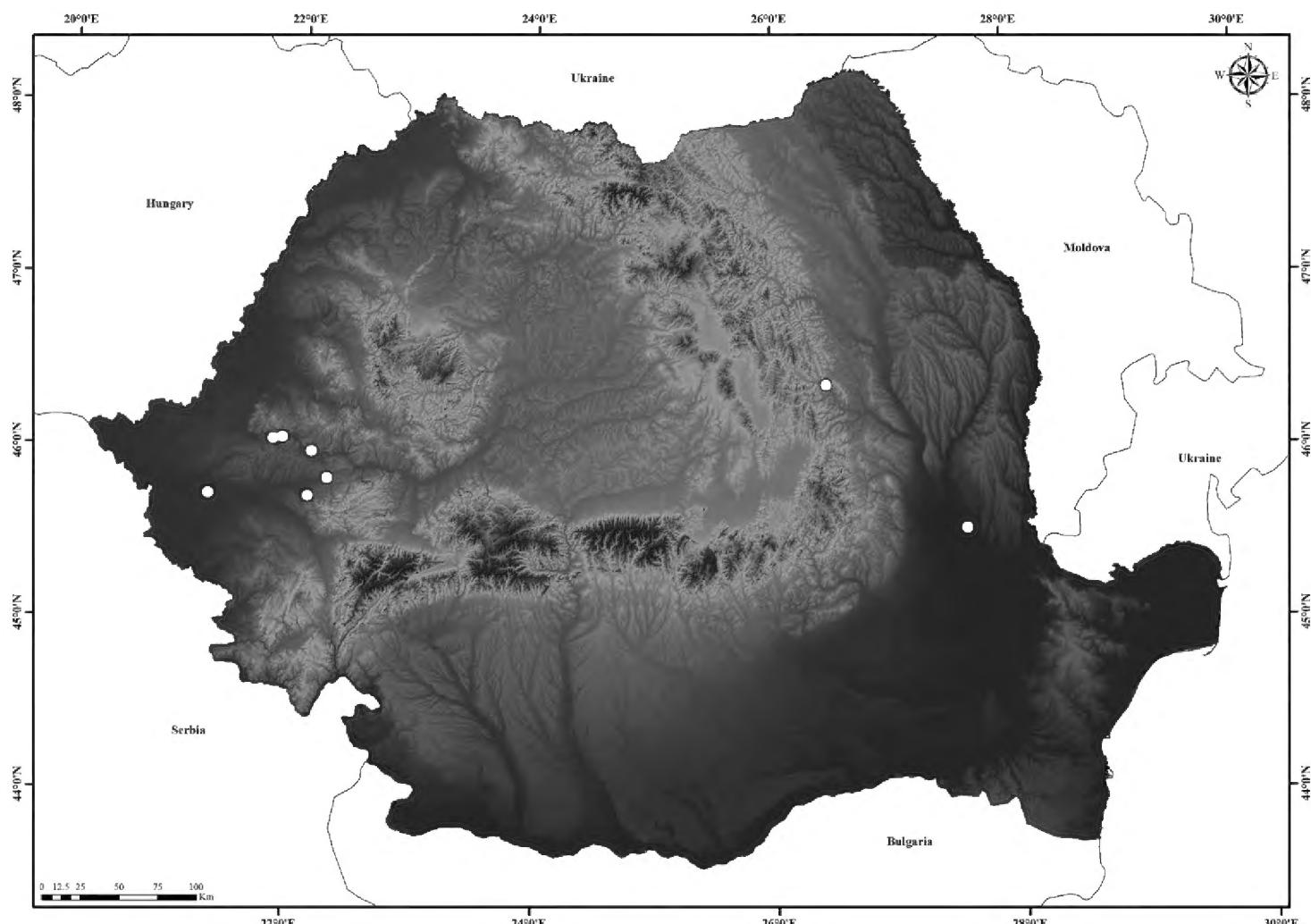


Figure 3. The distribution of *Callopistromyia annulipes* in Romania.

(near), in a *Robinia* forest on the car, 19.06.2019, 45.5817°N/27.5950°E, observed by Cosmin Manci; 1 ♀ (not collected), Romania, Arad county, Vărădia de Mureş

(near), 16.08.2019, 46.0187°N/22.1295°, observed by Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 ♀, Romania, Bacău county, Comănești (near), 1–24.08.2019, 46.4267°N/26.4427°E, wine trap, leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru; 5 ♀, 7 ♂, Romania, Bacău county, Comănești (near), 1–24.08.2019, 46.4267°N/26.4427°E, beer trap, leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 ♀, Romania, Bacău county, Comănești (near), 9.09.2019, 46.4267°N/26.4427°E, on *Robinia* logs, leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 specimen (not collected), Romania, Timiș county, Timișoara (near), 10.09.2019, 45.7546°N/21.2795°E, observed by Danka Dragomir; 1 specimen (not collected), Romania, Timiș county, Zorani (near), 24.09.2019, 45.8674°N/22.2637°E, observed by Pintilioiae Alexandru; 1 ♀, Romania, Bacău county, Comănești (near), 11.10.2019, 46.4267°N/26.4427°E, on *Robinia* logs, leg. Pintilioiae Alexandru. The collected specimens are deposited in the collection of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, Bucharest, Romania.

Regarding the ecology of the species, the adults are found usually at exposed places, on cars (Steyskal 1979; Kameneva and Pekarsky 2016; this study), trash cans and soil (Kameneva and Pekarsky 2016), on flag poles, handrails, curbstones (Dvořák et al. 2017) and also on different deciduous dead trees, like *Populus deltoides* (Steyskal 1979), *Populus alba* (Kłasa and Jałoszyński 2018), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Rölke 2017; this study), *Fagus* sp. (Korneyev et al. 2014). They were observed feeding on frass of wood-boring beetles in live trees of *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Steyskal 1979) and are also attracted to beer traps (Korneyev et al. 2014; Dvořák 2017; Dvořák et al. 2019; this study) and in a much lower number, to wine traps (this study). The females were observed ovipositing on dead trees of *Robinia pseudoacacia* and puparia were found in decaying cambium of *Acer negundo* (Steyskal 1979).

Increasing the sampling effort (especially using beer traps) throughout the country will certainly reveal that *Callopistromyia annulipes* is much more widespread in Romania.

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